

well while another is under recognition.

#### POSTER BABY FOR HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, might I introduce to you the poster baby for health care reform.

In Denver, a wonderful bouncing baby was denied health insurance because the baby weighed about 17 pounds and was 4 months old, and it was determined that he had a pre-existing disease of obesity.

Now, all of us know how wonderful it is to have a healthy baby who has a full and wonderful round look. We also know about something called baby fat, and for us mothers we know how a bouncing, bountiful baby can turn into that lean marathon runner. That's just the way it is.

So for all of the reports that our insurance companies are attempting to undermine the effort of ensuring that every American has access to health care and that we rid ourselves of this whole condition of preexisting disease, here's your example.

What an outrage.

#### IN HONOR OF THE 56TH STRYKER BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 754. It was an emotional time in Pennsylvania as members of the 56th Stryker Brigade Combat Team came home from Iraq to a tribute of yellow ribbons and flying flags. The homecoming elation belies the fear that always accompanies soldiers at war.

NBC correspondent Richard Engel described one of the uses of a Stryker vehicle now in Afghanistan: "We're warned about IEDs, improvised explosive devices, a somewhat desensitized way of saying bombs that can blow you to pieces and throw your body 75 feet in the air."

"Some of the Strykers, the soldier's armored vehicles, are fitted with giant rollers. They stick out in front of the big armored trucks, making the Strykers look like the machines that pick up golf balls at a driving range. The Strykers push the heavy wheels of the rollers over the sand. If the wheels hit an IED, the device will blow up; if not, the ground is safe."

"We walk in a double-file line in the tracks left by the rollers. I try to walk in the footsteps of the soldier in front of me."

This is a stark reality of the job the Stryker Brigade performs in both Iraq and Afghanistan. It is just one of the reasons we honor their service today.

#### HEALTH CARE BILLS ARE FRIGHTENING

(Mr. GINGREY of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Madam Speaker, we currently have Democratic health care reform bills under consideration. Surveyed together, our options are frightening. H.R. 3200 adds \$239 billion to the deficit, it opens the door for illegal aliens to get benefits, and it could move up to a hundred million Americans off of their current health care plan and onto the government-run option.

The Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee bill forces a government takeover of our Nation's health care system and allows the government to sell products that all Americans must buy. The Senate Finance Committee bill cuts over \$400 billion from the health benefits of our seniors. It increases the average insurance premium for American families by \$4,000, and it still leaves 2.5 million Americans uninsured even with its \$1.8 trillion expenditure.

As bad as these bills are, what they will become once HARRY REID, NANCY PELOSI and their liberal allies in the Senate take them behind closed doors to craft a final product will be much, much worse. Personally, the last people I want deciding my family's health care are Speaker PELOSI and Leader REID.

#### TRIBUTE TO CHRISTOPHER FRENZE OF THE JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE

(Mr. BRADY of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in tribute to Mr. Christopher Frenze, Republican House staff director for the Joint Economic Committee, who's retiring this week from a distinguished career in government service.

Chris joined the Joint Economic Committee in 1981. His career has been distinguished by his relentless effort to promote the public interest, encourage economic growth, reduce the burden of government, and respect the Constitution. His knowledge of economic policy is only one of his many talents.

He's an effective, successful manager who recruited top economists to serve the committee for many years. His work has served both Senate and House Republican Members in the majority and in the minority. He represents the very best in public service.

I know I speak for all of my colleagues in the Joint Economic Committee in congratulating Chris upon his retirement and thanking him in his dedicated and tireless service to the United States Congress.

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#### SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

#### AFGHANISTAN IS NOT A WAR OF NECESSITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, the White House is figuring how they should treat Afghanistan, what to do about Afghanistan. As they review the situation, they must be asking themselves a lot of questions: Should our strategy be counterinsurgency or counterterrorism? Should we send in 40,000 more troops, or 20,000 more troops, or should we send in any more at all? And is the Taliban really a threat to our national security?

Meanwhile, the American people are asking the most important question of all: Is the war a war of necessity? And most Americans are coming to the conclusion that it is not. And I agree with them.

Our military presence in Afghanistan is not necessary because al Qaeda, which attacked us on 9/11, simply isn't in Afghanistan anymore. In fact, it's estimated that only about 100 al Qaeda fighters remain in the country. Our military presence isn't necessary because it will lead us into another foreign quagmire. Escalating the war will require massive numbers of troops. They will be fighting an endless war with many casualties, no exit strategy at this point, and the American people will not put up with that.

This war is not necessary because it will cost hundreds of billions of dollars. That's the money we need to put the American people back to work, Madam Speaker, and to get our economy back on track. And finally, this war is not necessary because we have better alternatives.

First and foremost, these alternatives include smart security. Smoking out and stopping the violent extremists in Afghanistan requires the effective surgical tool of smart security, not the blunt instrument of massive military occupancy. Smart security calls for strengthening our intelligence and surveillance capabilities. That's absolutely essential because the best way to stop the extremists in Afghanistan is to penetrate and disrupt their networks.

Smart security calls for improvements in civilian policing. A well-trained police force is a highly effective counterinsurgency tool because it's right there in the communities where the extremists are. Smart security calls for a regional diplomatic surge. Afghanistan's neighbors have an interest in stabilizing the country just